

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed the Advisory Action dated April 03, 2003. By way of response, Applicants have cancelled claim 25 without prejudice and amended claims 1, 26, and 27. Claims 1-11, 18-20, 22-24 and 26-27 are pending. No new matter is introduced. Applicants submit that the amended and newly presented claims are supported by the specification.

The amendment to claim 1 adding the limitation of human or rat is supported by the specification at least at page 6, lines 1-3.

This amendment is accompanied by a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

This amendment is also accompanied by a statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) to complete the requirements for the information disclosure statement filed March 24, 2003.

For the reasons given below, Applicants respectfully submit the amended and newly presented claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1

The Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 25

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not enabled by the specification. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The Examiner indicated in the advisory action of April 03, 2003, that the proposed amendment to claim 1, if entered, would overcome the pending rejection of claims 1-11 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated and the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

The Rejection of Claims 20 and 22-23

The Examiner has rejected claims 20 and 22-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter not enabled by the specification. Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Examiner indicated in the advisory action of April 03, 2003, that the proposed amendment to claim 1, if entered, would remove the rejection of claims 20, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, resulting from their recitation of claim 1.

Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated and the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicants traverse this rejection.

The Examiner indicated in the advisory action of April 03, 2003, that the proposed cancellation of claim 25, if entered, would overcome the pending rejection of claims 25-27 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated and the Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, each of claims 1-11, 18-20, 22-24 and 26-27 are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will expedite the prosecution of this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

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By: Mark T. Skoog
Mark T. Skoog
Reg. No. 40,178



Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:

Claim 25 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 26, and 27 were amended as follows.

1. (AMENDED 3 TIMES) A method of generating a cell culture comprising dopaminergic neuron cells, said method comprising the sequential steps of:
 - a. providing precursor cells comprising human or rat fetal central nervous system cells
 - b. [a.] proliferating precursor cells, said step of proliferating comprising:
 - i. incubating a suspension of said precursor cells in a proliferating medium which includes basic fibroblast growth factor (bFGF) to form proliferated precursor cells; and subsequently
 - c. [b.] differentiating said precursor cells, said step of differentiating comprising:
 - i. incubating said precursor cells in an incubation vessel which contains differentiation medium in a manner effective to form a reaggregation of differentiated dopaminergic neuron cells that is not adhered to any surface of the incubation vessel, wherein the differentiation medium includes ascorbic acid. [; wherein said precursor cells comprise fetal central nervous system cells.]
26. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 [25], wherein the precursor cells comprise human fetal cells obtained between about embryonic week 5 and about embryonic week 8.
27. (AMENDED) The method of claim 1 [25], wherein the precursor cells further comprise rat fetal cells obtained between about embryonic day 10 and about embryonic day 12.